

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 L-03 EA-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /058 R

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L/PM - MR. MICHEL

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R 142229Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SAMTEC AFSC VANDENBERG AFB CALIF

S E C R E T STATE 030743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, PC, UK

SUBJECT: PROJECT BOSS - OENO ISLAND

REF: LONDON A-502, 18 MAR 1969

1. IN ACCORD WITH EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED MARCH 14, 1969, AS REPORTED IN REF AIRGRAM, AIR FORCE ERECTED TWO TOWERS ON WHICH ARE MOUNTED TWO PASSIVE RADAR REFLECTORS FOR USE IN POSITIONING SPACE TRACKING SHIPS USED IN A PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THESE TOWERS ARE THEREFORE SURPLUS TO AIR FORCE NEEDS AND ARE NOT OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY USG IN THEIR PRESENT LOCATION. THE COST OF REMOVING AND DISMANTLING THE TOWERS WOULD EXCEED THEIR VALUE IN RELATION TO COST OF PROCURING REPLACEMENTS.

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2. THE TOWERS ARE 80 FEET HIGH, WEIGH APPROXIMATELY 6500

LBS EACH, AND ARE MADE OF TEN FOOT BOLTED SEGMENTS. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT RESIDENTS OF PITCAIRN ISLAND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE TOWERS FOR MOUNTING THEIR RADIO ANTENNAE AND ARE WILLING TO DISMANTLE AND REMOVE THEM WITHOUT COST OR LIABILITY TO EITHER USG OR HMG. WE ASSUME LOCAL COLONIAL GOVERNMENT FAMILIAR WITH THIS DESIRE WHICH WAS EXPRESSED TO USAF SPACE AND MISSILE TEST CENTER PERSONNEL DURING HAM RADIO CONVERSATIONS.

3. WE NOTE THAT PARAGRAPH 2(H) OF AGREEMENT SPECIFIES THAT USAF WILL INSURE REMOVAL OF PROPERTY BROUGHT ON TO THE ISLAND AND WE PROPOSE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT BY PERMITTING THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS TO REMOVE THEM FOR THEIR OWN USE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT OENO ISLAND IS GOVERNED AS PART OF PITCAIRN COLONY, IS UNINHABITED, AND IS VISITED BY PITCAIRN ISLANDERS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM FCO THAT USAF DESIRES TO ABANDON THESE TOWERS IN PLACE AND REQUESTS THAT GOVERNMENT OF PITCAIRN ISLAND BE NOTIFIED SO THAT TOWERS MAY BE REMOVED BY THEM FOR THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE USE OF THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS WHO ARE INTERESTED. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH ABANDONMENT IN PLACE FOR USE OF THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS IS ACCEPTABLE TO HMG AND RELIEVES USG OF ANY OBLIGATION TO REMOVE THE TOWERS OR OTHERWISE RESTORE THE ISLAND, AND OF ANY LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR REMOVAL, USE, OR FURTHER DISPOSITION.

5. YOU ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED, ASSUMING SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF ABOVE ISSUE, TO PROPOSE THE TERMINATION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED FOR IN THE MARCH 14, 1969, EXCHANGE OF NOTES, IN VIEW OF THE PROJECT'S COMPLETION.

KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEILLANCE, RADAR EQUIPMENT, MILITARY BASES, SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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